

Prof. Urs Meister

## Tectonics in Building Culture: Brickwork

Erasmus Intensive Program 2008, The Netherlands, 14th to 26th of August 2008

University of Liechtenstein, Institute for Architecture and Planning, Vaduz (Coordinator)  
Academie van Bouwkunst, Amsterdam (Organiser)  
Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Faculty of Architecture and Fine Art, Trondheim  
Royal Academy Copenhagen, School of Architecture, Denmark  
University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Architecture, Slovenia  
Universitat Polyècnica de Catalunya, School of Architecture of El Vallès, Barcelona, Spain  
University College Dublin, School of Architecture, Ireland



“Let us accept once and for all that a truly unprecedented and advanced work is not that which uses superficial brilliance to make a temporary and sensational impact, or that which seeks to take one by surprise by means of ostentatious, acrobatic contortions, based on momentary ‘finds’, but only that which is justified by a continuing, living tradition, that which endures because it is put to the test again and again, within each new context, so that it expresses afresh inner experiences, secretly nurtured disciplines, forms that have truly been handled over and over again.” Kenneth Frampton, “Studies in Tectonic Culture”

There is one major conclusion that can be drawn: architectonic form can no longer be generated of single building materials. There are multiple parameters that define the architectonic shell on different levels. The strong need for energy efficient buildings leads us to multi-layered façades that tend to break up the idea of material consistence into particular aspects. Although every single layer is solving a precise task perfectly, in the whole arrangement appears a significant lack of material expression. In splitting up of formerly strongly unified categories in architecture, we perceive a loss in building culture that leads to the absence of architectural language.

The Erasmus Intensive Program 2008 will be an opportunity to study the tectonics of brickwork in detail. We will live and work on the area of a brick factory in Holland. By building concrete prototypes and structures, the project will try to animate the students to experience the essential principles of constructing. Working with specific materials will raise questions concerning principles of static, the generic character of the material and the possibilities of joining them. The workshop includes, lectures, field studies and constructing a structure in real life scale.

Participants: 4 Architecture students from third year to Master level from each participating university

Costs: CHF 600.00 including travelling and accommodation